

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1. (previously presented) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow-shaped central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with an outer surface of said bow-shaped central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its center being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its center, the web height of the outer profile (14) increasing continuously sideways from its center, and the web height of the cover (15) decreasing continuously sideways from its center.

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to claim 1, characterised in that the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at its center is at least 130% of the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at fastening portions thereof, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between said fastening portions.

Claim 4. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to claim 3, characterised in that the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover at its center is at least 160% of the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover at said fastening portions.

Claim 5. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 1, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 6. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to claim 1, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 7. (original) A bumper beam according to Claim 6, characterised in that both the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) have side flanges that end their webs, and these side flanges (19 and 27; 20 and 28) are welded together.

Claim 8. (previously presented) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow- shaped central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with an outer surface of said bow-shaped central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its center being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its center, and

the cover has a lower yield strength than the outer profile.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow- shaped central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with an outer surface of said bow-shaped central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its center being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its center, and

the thickness of the material from which the cover (15) is formed is less than the thickness of the material from which the outer profile (14) is formed.

Claim 10. (cancelled)

Claim 11. (cancelled)

Claim 12. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 3, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 4, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 3, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 4, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 5, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover are welded together.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the thickness of the material from ~~which~~which the cover (15) is formed is less than the thickness of the material from which the outer profile (14) is formed.

Claim 18. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that the cover has a lower yield strength than the outer profile.

Claim 19. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at its center is at least 130% of the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at fastening portions thereof, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between said fastening portions.

Claim 20. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at its center is at least 130% of the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at fastening portions thereof, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between said fastening portions.

Claim 21. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 22. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 23. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 24. (currently amended) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow-shaped central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with an outer surface of said bow-shaped central flange facing outwards from the vehicle, said outer profile having a predetermined web height, and said cover having a predetermined web height,

characterised in that

the web height of the outer profile (14)(15) increases continuously sideways from its center, and the web height of the cover (15) decrease continuously sideways from its center.

Claim 25. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 1, characterised in that said outer profile (14) includes a stiffener (21) extending in a longitudinal direction along a portion of said outer profile (14).

Claim 26. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that said outer profile (14) includes a stiffener (21) extending in a longitudinal direction along a portion of said outer profile (14).

Claim 27. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that said outer profile (14) includes a stiffener (21) extending in a longitudinal direction along a portion of said outer profile (14).